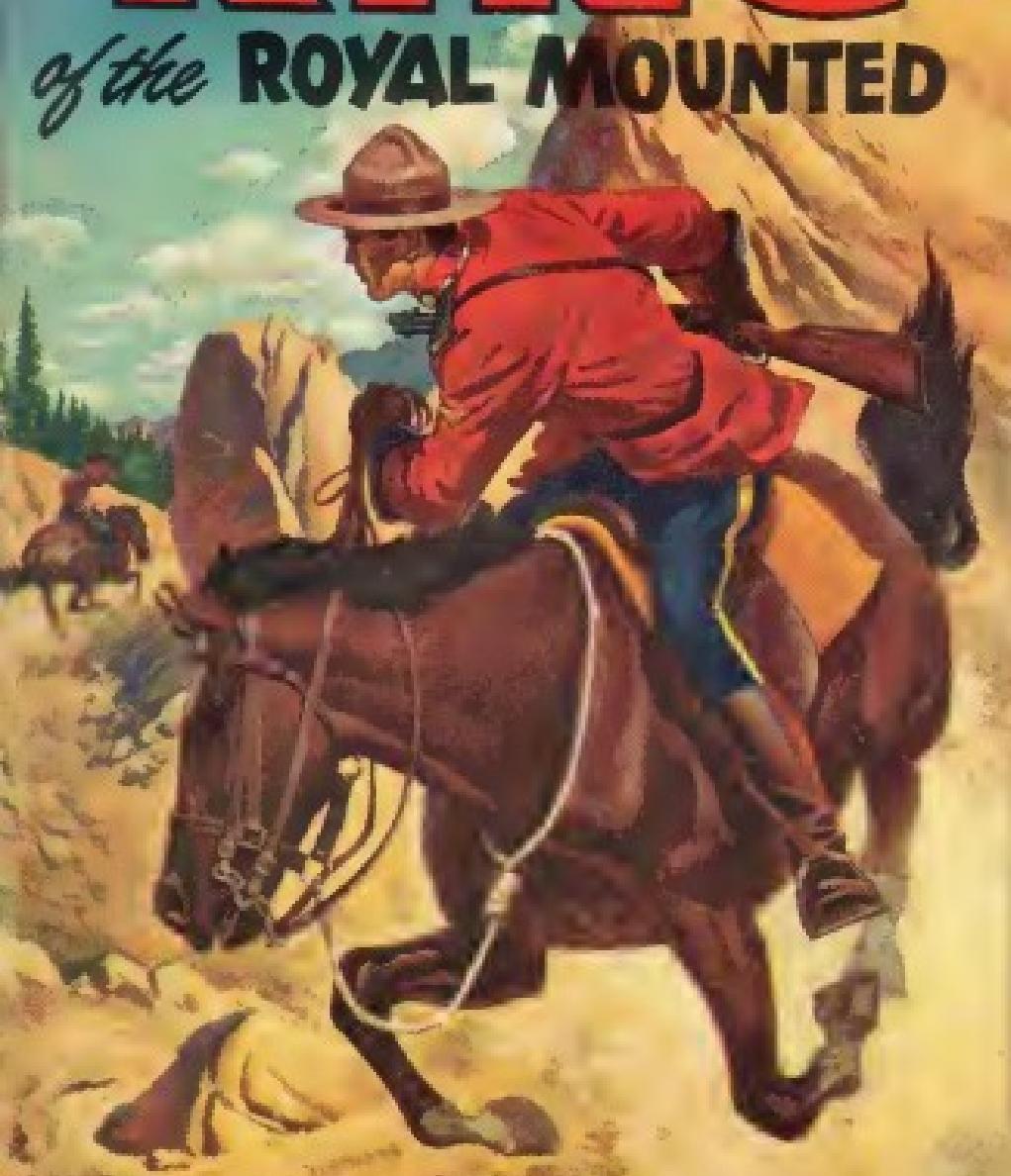
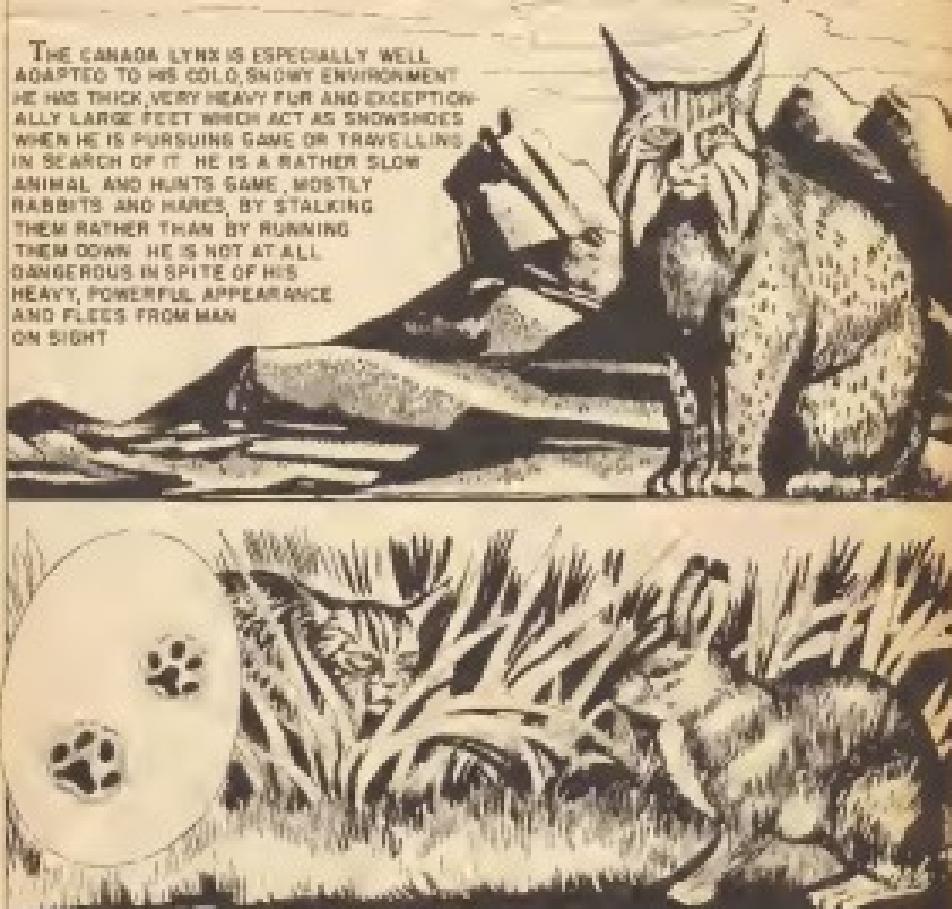


ZANE GREY'S
KING
of the ROYAL MOUNTED



THE CANADA LYNX....

THE CANADA LYNX IS ESPECIALLY WELL ADAPTED TO HIS COLD, SNOWY ENVIRONMENT. HE HAS THICK, VERY HEAVY FUR AND EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE FEET WHICH ACT AS SNOWSHOES WHEN HE IS PURSUING GAME OR TRAVELLING IN SEARCH OF IT. HE IS A RATHER SLOW ANIMAL AND HUNTS GAME, MOSTLY RABBITS AND HARES, BY STALKING THEM RATHER THAN BY RUNNING THEM DOWN. HE IS NOT AT ALL DANGEROUS IN SPITE OF HIS HEAVY, POWERFUL APPEARANCE AND FLEES FROM MAN ON SIGHT.



THE CANADA LYNX IS SELDOM SEEN IN THE UNITED STATES AS THE CLIMATE SEEMS TOO WARM FOR HIM BUT, HE IS SOMETIMES FOUND IN THE WILDER NORTHERN SECTIONS OF VERMONT, MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE. IN THE WEST, HIS RANGE EXTENDS AS FAR SOUTH AS COLORADO. HIS TRACKS ARE, OF COURSE, DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE FOR THE SIZE OF HIS BODY, (HE IS SOMETIMES FOUR FEET LONG), BUT ARE EASILY DISTINGUISHED FROM ANY OTHER WILD CAT'S BECAUSE THEY ARE MUCH BROADER THAN THEY ARE LONG.

ZANE GREY'S KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

MEETS TERROR IN THE WILDERNESS

SERGEANT KIRK HAS JUST COMPLETED A MURDER PATROL ---
ONLY TO RECEIVE A MORE HAZARDOUS ASSIGNMENT FROM
INSPECTOR MACKENZIE.

I'VE A SPECIAL DETAIL
FOR YOU --- AN UGLY SORT OF
MYSTERY AT WILD SPAR, LACEY.
YOU'VE HEARD OF THE PLACE?

TEE, SURE IT'S A NEW NICKEL-COBALT-
COPPER MINING COMMUNITY, LESS THAN
TWO YEARS OLD --- A FEW HUNDRED
MILES NORTH OF HERE.



RIGHT? THE NICKEL IMPORTANCE TO THE
WESTERN WORLD'S DEFENSE IS
TREMENDOUS! AND A SERIES OF
DEMOLITIONISTS "ACCIDENTS" THIS
WINTER HAVE BEARLY GRIPPLEE
THE WORK. LET ME SAY I HAVE BEEN
INJURED --- TRACTOR TRAINS
BURIED UNDER BLASTERS ---

YOU'LL FIND THE DETAILED
REPORT OF THE NICKEL MANAGEMENT
HERE. I SUGGEST THAT YOU GO WITH
THE TRACTOR TRAINS THAT ARE
LEAVING BURGETT TOMORROW ---
THE TRIP SHOT PURCHASE YOU SOME
TIME. IT WILL BE THE LAST ONE
BEFORE THE SPRING BREAKUP.



NEXT WORKERS AT BURDOTT--THE "JUMPING-OFF PLACE" --

PLEASE TELL ME---
WHY DO THEY CALL YOU
TRACTOR OPERATORS
"CAT SKINNERS".
MR. WALLIE

SAME PERSON A MAN
WHO DRIVES MULES IS
CALLED A "MULE
SKINNER", MISS.

DON'T YOU
KNOW, BIS---
A TRACTOR IS
A "CAT"?

HOTEL



TIME TO SKIN!
YOU'LL RIDE IN
THE CABOOSE,
MISS GRANT...

WHERE IS THE
CABOOSE?

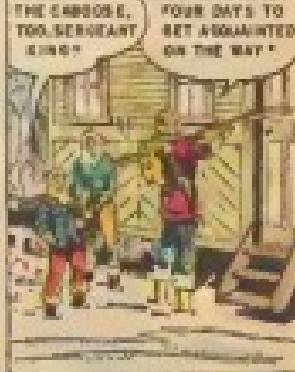
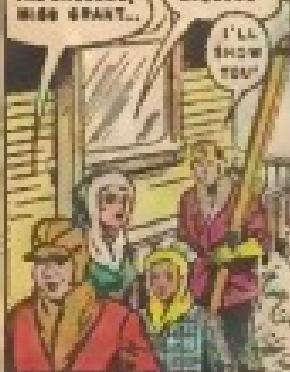
I'LL
SHOW
YOU!

THE SERGEANT
KING I'LL BE
MAKING THIS
TRIP WITH
YOU, MISS--

LILA GRANT
I'M GOING UP
TO REPLACE A
SURGEON WHO
FELL ILL AT
WILD SWAN LAKE.
AND THIS IS MY
BROTHER, TOMMY,
SERGEANT!

ARE YOU
GOING TO
RIDE IN
THE CABOOSE,
TOMMY, SERGEANT
KING?

SOME OF THE
TIME, TOMMY? WE
WILL HAVE ABOUT
FOUR DAYS TO
GET ACQUAINTED
ON THE WAY!



THE MOTION OF TWO
CABOOSES MAY MAKE YOU
A LITTLE SEA-SICK AT
FIRST--- BUT YOU'LL
GET OVER IT!

WE'LL HAVE
TO! I DON'T
DARE TO RIDE A
TRACTOR IN A
FORTY-BELOW
ZERO WIND FOR
LONG!

BUCKLE! I WOULDN'T
RIDE, SERGEANT!
BIBLE ARE SOFTIES?
CAN'T I RIDE OUT-
SIDE, AMBLE?

ALL RIGHT, TOMMY! WE
WILL ASK THE SKINNERS'
PERMISSION--- BUT I
GUARANTEE YOU'LL HAVE
ENOUGH BEFORE OUR
NEXT STOP! EVER THE
SKINNERS' WORK SHORT
SHIFTS...



ON AND ON IT GOES,
THREE MILES AN HOUR.
THE "TWIN" BRINGS
ALONG OVER ROCKY
HILLS AND FROZEN
LAKES, THRU DUSK
FOREST AND OVER
SNOW-COVERED
MOUNTAINS---Hauling
LUMBER, MACHINERY,
DYNAMITE AND FOOD
SUPPLIES---THE
LIFELINE OF ISOLATED
HOMES AND MINES.



ON THE LAST DAY OF THE TRIP, RING RIDES WITH
THE LEAD SLEDDER...

"WE'VE HAD GOOD LUCK
THIS TRIP, HARRIS! ONLY
THIRTY MILES MORE TO
WILDE SWAN LAKE!"



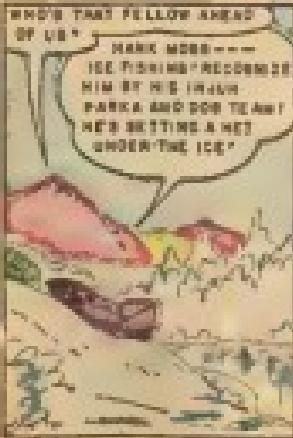
"WE'RE NOT THERE
YET, SERGEANT! I'VE
GOT A SICKER FEELING
THAT SOMETHING'S
COMING TO HAPPEN! IT
JOB IS JINXED!"



"LAST TRIP I MADE THE
CABOOSE BLEW UP! NOBODY
KNOWS WHY! THREE TRIPS
BACK, EVERYTHING IS THE SAME
BUT FOOD POISONING AND
THAT AVALANCHE THAT BURIED
ONE TRAIN COMPLETELY!"

WHO'S THAT FELLOW AHEAD
OF US?"

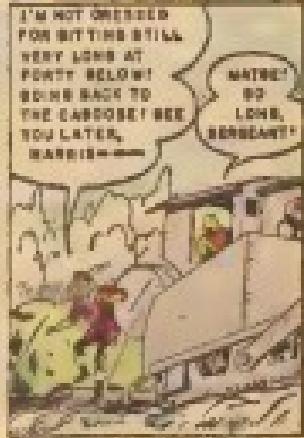
"MARK MOSS---
ICE FISHING RECOMMENDED
HIM BY HIS TRAIN
PARKA AND DON TEAM!
HE'S SITTING A MET
UNDER THE ICE!"



"BUCK!"
"BRACE!"
"BEFORE THE TRAIN GETS CLOSE,
THE FISHERMAN LEAVES HIS WORK
AND READS FOR SLEDDER..."

"I'M NOT ORDERED
FOR SLEDDER! STILL
VERY LONG AT
FORTY BELOW!
GOING BACK TO
THE CABOOSE! SEE
YOU LATER,
HARRIS!"

"MATE?
SO
LONG,
SERGEANT?"



THAT HARRIS CERTAINLY
HAS A CASE OF "MUSCLE
TICKLES"! ACTS AS
THOUGH HE EXPECTS
TO DROP DEAD
ANY MINUTE!

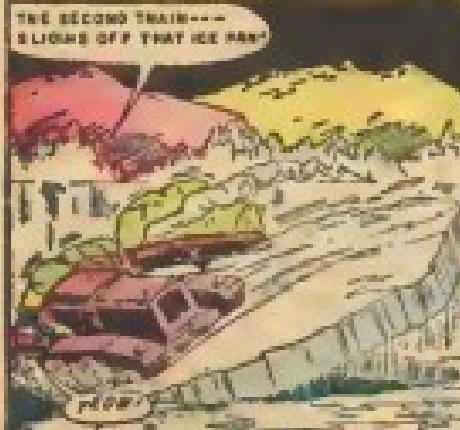


THE SUDSY VIOLENCE OF AN EXPLOSION WOULD
SEND OFF HIS FEET.

THE LEASTEN TRACTOR AND IT'S TRAIN HAVE VANISHED UNDER A MUSHROOMING CLOUD OF WATER,
ICE AND DEBRIS.



THE SECOND TRAIN---
SLIDES OFF THAT ICE PAN!



THE "SUDSON" OF THE
SINKING TRAIN SHIPS
THE SKINNER---



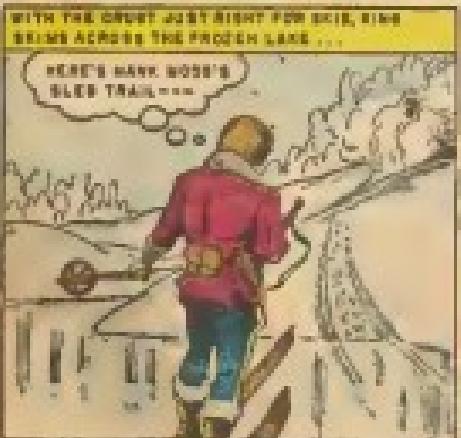
HELP!
I CAN'T HOLD
ON ---

--- AND PULLS HIM
UNDER!









HE ISN'T MAKING ANY ATTEMPT TO RISE HIS TRAIL--
MANY MORE THAN HE TRIED TO AVOID BEING
SEEN BEFORE THE EXPLOSION! THERE'S SOMETHING
STRANGE ABOUT THAT!"



"THERE'S THE ENEMY!
HIS DOGS ARE
WARNING HIM! I
MAY STOP A
BULLET IF I GO
DOWN THERE,
BUT--"



"BUT NO HUMAN BEETLES HOME AS HE REACHED THE POOR."



"HELLO, THERE,
RANK MOSE!"



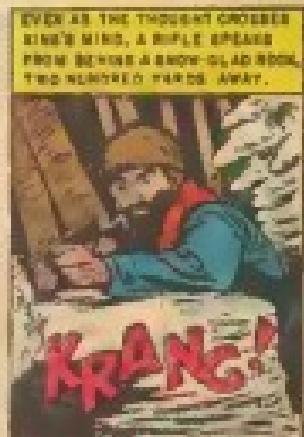
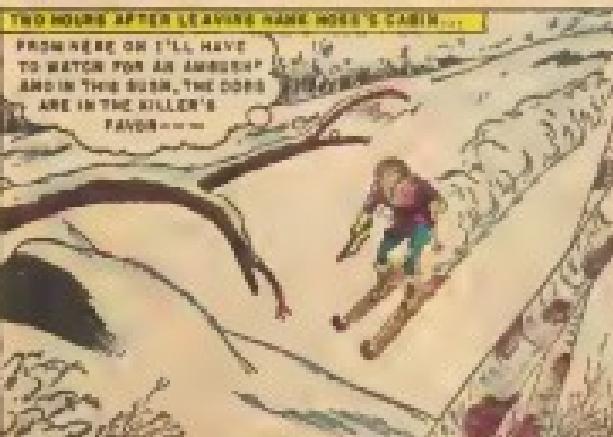
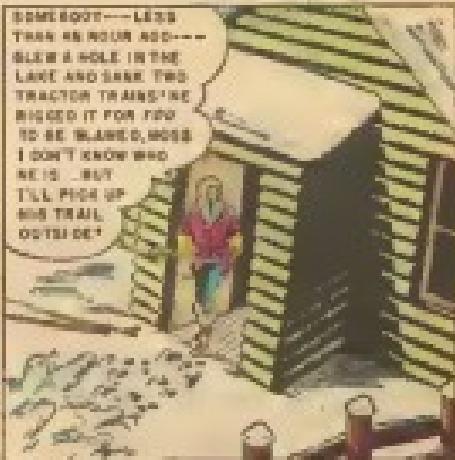
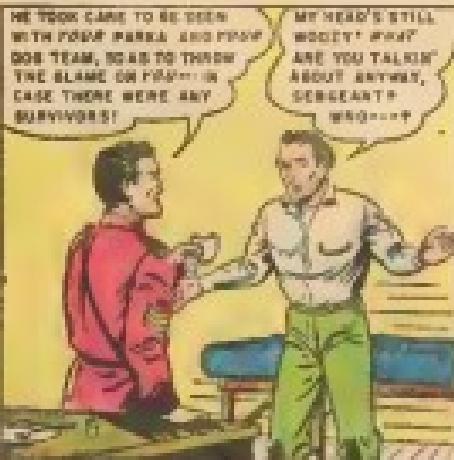
"MOSE! THIS IS
SERGEANT KANG--
WHERE ARE YOU?"



"MOSE! WHAT'S
THE MATTER
WITH YOU?"



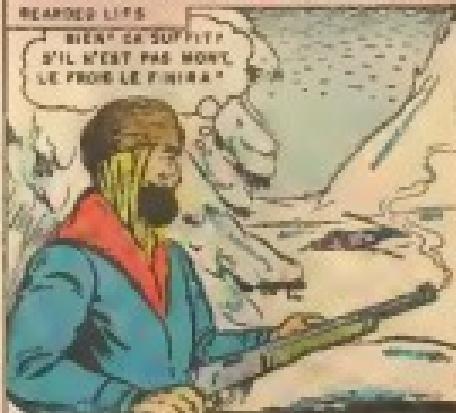




THE SHOCK OF THE HAMLET
SPINS KIRK OFF HIS FEET!



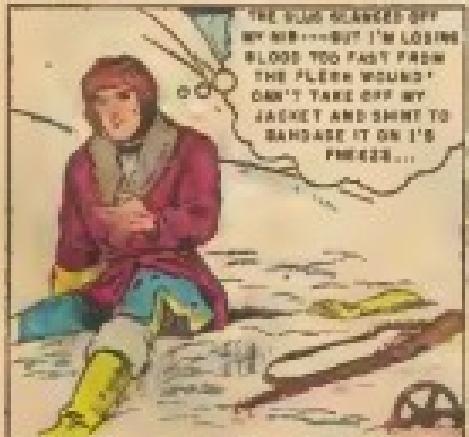
ONE BLARNEY AT KIRK'S SPRAWLED FORM BRINGS A
GUSH OF SATISFACTION TO THE AMBUSHER'S
BEARDED LIPS.



WITH HORROR I HEARD HIS
RAOUETTE ON THE SNOW
CRUST---FADING DULL WE
FIGURED THE GOLD WOULD
GET HEAT IF I'M NOT
ALREADY DEAD.
WISH I'VE GOTTAH A
LOOK AT HIM!

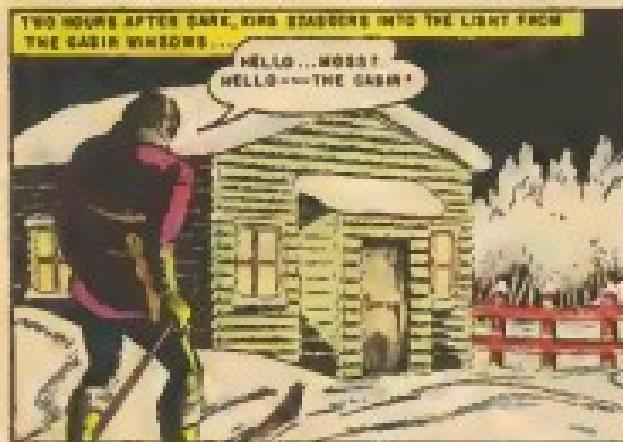


THE FROST BLANKEETS OFF
MY ARM---BUT I'M LOSIN'
BLOOD TOO FAST FROM
THE FLESH WOUND.
CAN'T TAKE OFF MY
JACKET AND SHIRT TO
BANDAGE IT OR I'LL
FREEZE...



BUT THERE'S
ANOTHER WAY...





WHAT'S ALL THIS BACKUP ABOUT, ANYWAY, SERGEANT? ALL THIS HARD LUCK THE MINES AND THEIR SUPPLY TRAINS ARE HAVING? WHAT'S BEING IT? AND WHERE?

WHEN THOSE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED, HANK, THE TROUBLE WILL BE OVER MEANWHILE, YOUR GUERRILLAS GO ON AS MINE.

THERE'S ANOTHER QUESTION THAT HITS ME CLOSER TO HOME: THAT DYNAMITER WHO'S BEEN HIT BY THE OTHER TWO OFF-SKINNERS. WEARIN' MY CLOTHES AND DRIVING MY DOGS. HOW SOON DO YOU FIGURE THEY'LL COME LOOKIN' FOR ME---WITH GUNS?

WELL, NOT UNTIL THEY HAVE GIVEN ME TIME TO REPORT BACK.



YOU BETTER LAY OFF YOUR FISHIN', TRAVIS. UNTIL YOU DRIVE ME TO WALK SWAN LAKE! MY WORD WILL CLEAR YOU. THEN, HANK?

IT TAKES REAL COURAGE, HOWEVER, FOR HANK MOSS TO DRIVE KING TO THE MINERS' SETTLEMENT. THREE DAYS LATER---NOT KNOWING HOW MANY TRIBESMAN HAPPY MINERS MAY BE CONVICTING HIS APPROACH



FULL OF---YOU BLASTED MUNCHMEN! YOU'RE NOT A HERO ---

WE'VE BEEN WAITING YOU AND YOUR FATHER ---

HOLD IT, KID!



I'M REINDECKT ONE OF THE REAL MOUNTED POLICE CALL HOME. LILA GRANT AND HER BROTHER TO IDENTIFY ME. IF YOU HAVE DOUBTED THE REAL DYNAMITER AMBUSHED ME AND ESCAPED---LEFT ME FOR DEAD.

BUT---THIS MARK MOSS WAS DEAD!



WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHO'S BEEN
—WITH MEGGIE'S CLOTHES AND HER
TEARS? I FOUNDED MORE HELPLESS IN
HIS CAREER, REALED AND THEM
CHLOROFORMED! HOW, MISTER LEMON,
PLEASE SHOW US TO THE HOSPITAL
SO I CAN HAVE MY WOUND
DRESSED!

HELLO,
LILAH!

SERGEANT RUSH WE WERE JUMPIN'
SOMETHIN' TERRIBLE HAD HAPPENED!
I'VE CALLED DOCTOR LEARNER.



HEM! THIS WOUND WAS
NEVER PROPERLY
STERILIZED! THERE'S
A LITTLE INFECTION...
BUT YOU BEEN TO ME
AS TUGH AS A
GRIZZLY BEAR,
SERGEANT.

NOW LONG WILL
NEED TO BE
HOSPITALIZED;
DOCTOR
LEARNER?



TWO WEEKS, AT LEAST! THAT WILL BE ABOUT THE
TIME OF THE SPRING BREAKUP... SO YOU CAN JUST
TAKE IT EASY FOR ANOTHER MONTH AFTER THAT,
SERGEANT! NOT EVEN A FLOAT PLANE ON LAND
UNTIL THE LAKE IS CLEAR OF ICE.



SAY! YOU'RE
LOOKIN' GREAT, ERNST!
HOW DOES YOUR SIDE FEEL?
HE SAYS IT'S NEARLY
WELL ---

SO WELL THAT I'M
SETTING UP
TODAY, TOMMORROW,



ERST, SERGEANT! I HEARD YOU
DOCTOR LEARNER... BUT YOU'RE
SICK NOW. REMEMBER ME
WEEKS?

OR I'LL SET UP AND
LOSE PEEF IT! TALK
WHAT WILL DOCTOR
LEARNER SAY?





NO TEE'TH MARKS
THAT IS WHERE
STRANGER TELL
ME THE BEAR

THE DEAD MAN WAS A BROTHER, MY BROTHER AND I
HAD JUST PICKED UP THE BODY, WHEN A HUGE
BEAR RUSHED AT US FROM BEHIND A TREE! HE
ROSE ON HIS HIND LEGS AND STRUCK MY
BROTHER DEAD WITH A BLOW OF HIS PAW. HE
STRUCK AT ME, AND BROKE MY SHOULDER---

...AND YOU CAN BACK INTO TOWN,
BROKEN SHOULDER, AND ALL THAT
CHECKS WITH WHAT I HEARD

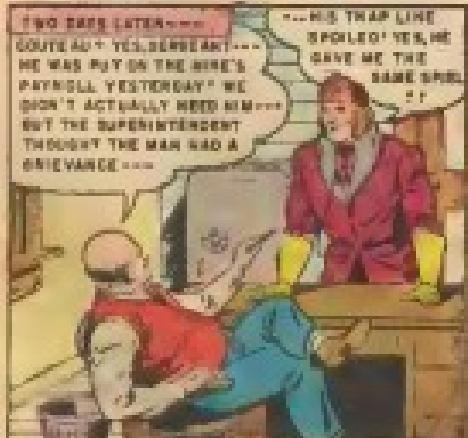


THE LAW, ERN SAY THAT NO ONE
MAY STEAL OTHER MAN'S TRAP LINE---
OUR' T'S TRAP THIS PLACE
THIS YEARST' NOW THE MINDS
ONE BUST UP MY BEER TRAP LINE
---DRIVE ALL THE BEAVER AN'
WINK AN' FOOL ABOUT---

BEREAVEMENT BAIL YOU TALK FOR
THE BEER BUSINESS---THE FET
ACROSSY ROBERT THE WOODS ARE
FREE---UNTIL BEER BUSINESS
COME AND KICK OUT POOR TRAPPER
---LIE DOMINIQUE GOULEAU"

BEREAVER' IF I DON'T BREAK THE
BEER PAT ME PEE BUSTED TRAP
LINE, THEN I HIT NEED FOR A
JOL' THE SPRING
HOW, I
WONDER
THAN SHE IS
WHAT DO HE
HOPE TO GAIN
BY THAT
LITTLE NOT?





HELLO, TOMMY! I WAS JUST HEADING FOR YOUR QUARTERS. WHERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?"

"AHEM—NO, I WAS GOING OVER TO LOOK AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE STORE..."

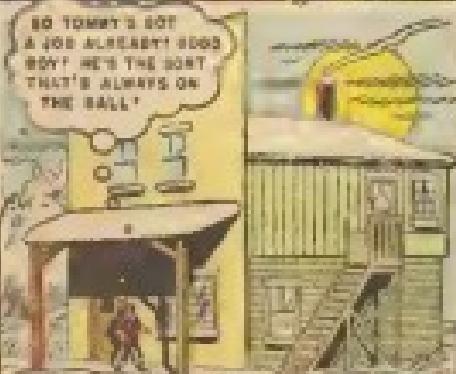


"I'VE GOT A JOB OF TENDING FIRE THERE NOW! BUT, SAY! IT'S SWELL TO HAVE YOU AND DOCTOR LEARNER DOWN TO DINNER WITH US!" LILA'S GOT SUPPERS NEARLY COOKED..."

"I WON'T KEEP HER WAITING! AND DON'T YOU BE LATE, EITHER, TOMMY!"



"SO TOMMY'S GOT A JOB ALREADY? GOOD BOY! HERE'S THE BOY THAT'S ALWAYS ON THE BALL!"



"COME IN, TOMMY! I REALLY QUITE HAD TO BE NICE TO YOU—AFTER YOU DESERTED MY HOSPITAL!"

"HON' WELL, I LIKE YOU EVER BETTER AS MY HOSTESS THAN AS MY NURSE!"



LOOKING FORWARD TO A CAREFREE EVENING, SERGEANT KING SEES THE LIGHTED WINDOW OF LILA'S TWO-ROOM APARTMENT.

"YOU EXPRESSED MY OPINION EXACTLY, KING! LILA IS CRAZY AT EVERYTHING!"

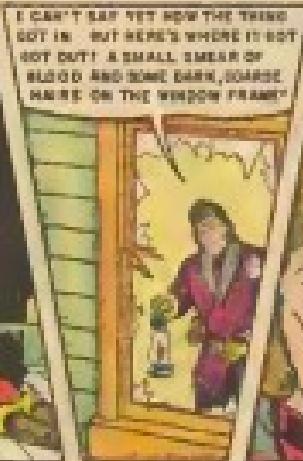
"HOW ARE YOU, DOCTOR LEARNER?"

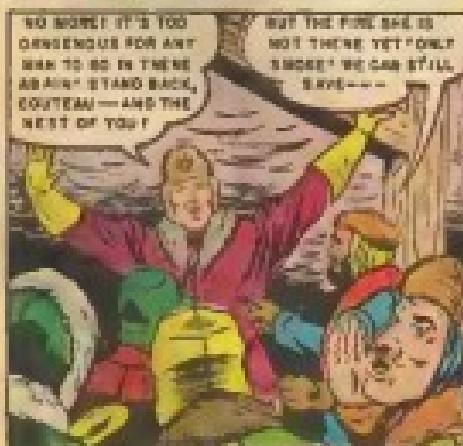


"NEARLY AN HOUR LATER—
I'M WORRIED ABOUT
TOMMY! HE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN BACK LONG
AGO! WILL ONE OF YOU
GO OVER TO THE
SCHOOLHOUSE?"











IT WILL PUT SOME PEOPLE HERE ON SHORT RATIONS UNTIL SPRING BREAKUP IS OVER! IT'S JUST ONE MORE THING TO DEMORALIZE THE MINERS! MANY OF THEM ARE SAYING ALREADY THAT THEY'RE TAKING THEIR FAMILIES OUT NEXT MONTH BY PLANE! IT BEGINS TO ADD UP, DOESN'T IT?

YOU MEAN, KIDS --- THAT SOME PERSON OR GROUP WANTS THESE MINES TO SHUT DOWN --- ALTHOUGH THEIR IMPORTANCE TO THE WEST'S DEFENSE EFFORT ...?

OR SECURETY OF THEIR IMPORTANCE?



IT NEVER LOOKS BUSHWHACKED, KIDS! BUT THE PEOPLE THAT KILLED THOSE TWO MEN AND ATTACHED TOMMIE WEREN'T WORKING FOR ANYBODY --- HI, TOMMIE! WE'RE BACK! AND HOMELESS!

EVERTHING BUT OUR LIVES AND OUR JOBS! IT COULD BE WORSE! --- HOW'S THAT REASONABLE?

IT'S REALLY SCARY! I O FEEL FINE, EXCEPT FOR THINKING OF THAT FIRE.



LEAVING THE OTHERS, KIRK STOPS TO TALK WITH
AND SPEAKS TO THE INJURED GREE.

SELL ME, MY FRIEND—
HOW CAN I REACH THE
CABIN OF DOMINIQUE
COUREAU—BY DAY-
LIGHT TOMORROW?



A FEW MINUTES LATER — —

HERE— I'VE DRAWN A
ROUGH MAP SHOWING THE
LANDMARKS YOU NAMED.
THE CABIN OF COUREAU
IS ABOUT TWO HOURS EAST
OF THE TOWN—IS THAT RIGHT?

TEST BUT IF YOU
GO THERE, THE
WYANNE
WILL KILL
YOU!



I'LL RIDE TRAIL'S THREE WE HAS
TRIED ONCE --- AND FAILEST I'LL
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MAN,
MY FRIEND GOOD NIGHT!

HELLO! HAVE LILA
AND THE DOCTOR
GENERATED YOU?

THEY'VE BEEN TO COOK SOME
SUPPER --- IN THE HOSPITAL
KITCHEN! WHERE ARE YOU
GOING, KIRK?



I'M COMING BACK TO THE "BLEED OFF" HOTEL --- TO
CHECK ON THE CREE'S OUTFIT. I'M TAKING IT OUT
BEFORE DAWN TOMORROW MORNING --- BUT DON'T
TELL ANYBODY, TOMMORROW GOOD NIGHT!



SIR! I'LL GET KING TO WORK
AFTER THAT BEER! LET'S PLAINLY
TO TRACE THE BRUTE AS
SOON AS WE CAN SEE THE
TRAIL! WISH I COULD
FIGURE A WAY TO
GO WITH HIM...



AT FIRST
DAYLIGHT
HE TAKES
OUTSIDE
THE DOG
SHOES.

I'LL LEAVE THOSE SLEEPING
BAGS ON THE SLDS---MIGHT
POSSIBLY NEED THEM MYSELF
---ALTHOUGH I SHOULD BE
BACK BEFORE NIGHT...
JUST FVENTURE, YOU
DARNED PUPPS!

TIP-TAP-TAP

GRRR-RRRR

FORESTLE, BIRD HARRISSES THE CREEF'S
TEAM---WITHOUT EXAMINING THE SLEDS
LITTLE AND.

SEEING TO SAVE TIME, KIDS TAKE THE RISK OF
CROSSING FLOODED, SOFT ICE, DANGEROUSLY
MELTED BY THE SPRING THAW.

"IN THE ICE
MUCH FASTER---
OR ELSE SWIM!"

I CAN FEEL THE
ICE GIVING UNDER
THE HUMMER'S HAT
IF WE MOVE FAST
ENOUGH---AND
DON'T STRIKE
A HOLE---



ALL RIGHT NOW---BUT I
DON'T THINK I'LL TRY
THAT AGAIN! WE
ALMOST DIDN'T
MAKE IT---

DON'T THEN YOU CAN'T
TURN AROUND AND TAKE
ME HOME." FOREST
KIDS?" YOU HARDLY
WANT'S THE
HUMMER'S
IDEA



I DON'T WANT TO BELIEF
OUT! YOU'RE GOIN' AFTER
THE BEAR THAT JUMPED
ME IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE,
AREN'T YOU? HOW DID
YOU KNOW?



